DEMOCRATIC

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The Strange Case of the SPYING CHANCELLOR

West German Chancellor Adenauer has admitted by implication that he was a regular agent of the French Intelligence Service in the years 1948—49.

Adenauer made the tacit admission on September 27th 1955, when he withdrew a libel case which was being heard against a former French intelligence agent.

The French spy, a German citizen named Konrad Schmeisser, had published an article in 1952 making specific charges that Adenauer and other leading Christian Democrats had supplied him regularly with secret information, and that they knew that this information was destined for the French Intelligence Service.

As soon as the article was published in the newsmagazine "Spiegel" in 1952, Adenauer ordered the confiscation of the whole issue, and opened a libel case against Schmeisser and the magazine. On September 26th 1955, after three years' delay, the case came up for hearing in Hanover Criminal Court. On the second day of the trial, before any evidence had been heard, Adenauer and his co-plaintiffs suddenly withdrew the charges, after Schmeisser and the magazine publishers had offered an "apology". The noteworthy feature of the "apology" was that it stated only that the accusations made about spying had not been made "with the intention of giving offence". Schmeisser and the magazine did not withdraw a single one of the accusations which had been made.

In the original "Spiegel" article, which we reprint in full in this number, Schmeisser related that Adenauer and Herbert Blankenhorn, now West German Ambassador to NATO, had supplied French Intelligence with secret political information, had given the names of West German personalities who might be recruited as French agents, and personal details about possible opponents of French policy. For this service Blankenhorn had received a regular salary and food parcels from French Intelligence.

In addition, Blankenhorn had requested a huge subsidy from the French authorities to be used by the Christian Democratic Union in the 1949 general elections.

Immediately after Adenauer and his co-plaintiffs had withdrawn their charges, and thus tacitly admitted the truth of the accusations, important West German newspapers called on Adenauer to retire. "This is the only thing which the chief of government in a democratic state, under these circumstances, can possibly do" stated the "Frankfurter Rundschau".

The West German Parliament was scheduled to debate the case on October 12th, as the result of questions tabled by the Social Democratic Party.

In view of the fact that details of this scandal have been virtually suppressed by western newspapers outside Germany, GERMAN REPORT presents on this and the following pages a full account of the Adenauer case, together with West German press comment and some biographical details about Chancellor Adenauer.

Adenauer Spy Case — Full Story

Here are the various stages of the Adenauer Case.

1. The West German news magazine "Spiegel" published on July 9th 1952 an article, based on the statements of Konrad Schmeisser, self-confessed former French intelligence agent, implicating West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, West German NATO representative Herbert Blankenhorn, and West German Consul General in Montreal Adolf Reifferscheidt, in the activities of French intelligence in West Germany. Main points of this article are presented in full on the next page.

2. On July 10th 1952, Chancellor Adenauer mobilised 10,000 West German police to track down and confiscate all possible copies of the magazine. Over 80,000 copies were seized by the police. The West German State Attorney immediately opened a case against the publishers of the magazine, and against Herr Schmeisser, charging "defamation of the Federal Chancellor". Blankenhorn and Reifferscheidt joined in the case as "joint plaintiffs".

(continued on next page)

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3. On September 26th 1955, after more than three years of preparation, the case opened in Hannover Criminal Court. On the second day of the trial, after only formal evidence had been given, the case was suddenly quashed after the accused had made formal statements that they had not intended the article to be insulting. These formal statements in no way withdrew the charges which had been levelled at Adenauer, Blankenhorn and Reifferscheidt. Schmeisser's statement said:

"In my statements about Federal Chancellor Dr Adenauer and joint plaintiffs Ambassador Blankenhorn and Consul General Reifferscheidt, as reported in the article in the 'Spiegel' on July 9th 1952, I did not act with the intention of giving offence. Insofar as my statement contains a reproach of defamatory or undutiful action on the part of those named, I do not maintain it." A similar statement was made by the "Spiegel" publishers.

4. The decision by Adenauer and his associates to break off the trial was greeted by a storm of protest in the West German press, and the Social Democratic Party announced that it would raise the matter in the West German Parliament, since the quashing of the trial had left open the question as to the truth of the charges.

LONDON AMBASSADOR IMPLICATED

The West German Ambassador to London, Herr von Herwarth, may have been implicated in the French espionage case dealt with in detail in this issue.

This was brought to light on September 30th by Dr Reinhold Maier, former Prime Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg province, who was counsel for some of the defendants in the Schmeisser case.

In a newspaper interview on September 30th Dr Maier stated: "During the trial... a shudder ran down my spine when the presiding judge read aloud a statement that the wife of a certain Herr von Herwarth, formerly employed in the Bavarian State, had regularly passed on information from the Chancery to the French. Neither the judge nor the listeners in court seemed to have noticed that this Herr von Herwarth is now Ambassador in London."

The West German Foreign Ministry issued the formal denial usual in the case of such allegations.

WEST GERMAN PRESS COMMENT

"Are Schmeisser's allegations true, or are they not? ... There was not a word about this in the compromise reached on Tuesday... If the three plaintiffs were private individuals, the explanation might be valid that in libel cases dirty linen is often washed in public, and sensible people reach a compromise. But it is not private individuals who are involved here... A parliamentary investigating commission must be established."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, September 29th 1955

* * *

"The Schmeisser affair is only juridically at an end. Politically it is just beginning... We ask the Federal Chancellor when he intends to do the only thing which the chief of government in a democratic state, under these circumstances, can possibly do. What was right in the Panama Scandal and the Dreyfus affair must be right in the Schmeisser affair."

Frankfurter Rundschau, September 29th 1955

* * *

"There is only one thing missing in the compromise which ended the affair: there was not a trace of a retraction or a withdrawal of facts. But it was just the facts which counted..."

Süddeutsche Zeitung, September 29th 1955

THE ARTICLE WHICH BLEW THE GAFF

Here is a translation of the article in the "Spiegel" dated July 9th 1952, which gave rise to the court case and the exposure of Chancellor Adenauer:

It was in Spring 1948 that René Levacher, alias Konrad Schmeisser, began to build his network of agents from his office in Boppard, in the French Zone of occupation. Soon he was supplying several dozen people with money and goods, or both, for the news which they hunted.

Schmeisser only reserved for himself dealings with very prominent West Germans. Among his new acquaintances, the names of three were to be found very frequently in his notebook:

Dr Adolf Reifferscheidt, at that time economic expert of the Christian Democratic zonal headquarters in Cologne, today Consul General of the Federal Republic in Casablanca.

Embassy Counsellor Herbert Blankenhorn, at that time General Secretary of the Christian Democratic Union in Cologne, today Ministerial Director and head of the Political Department in the Bonn Foreign Ministry.

Dr Konrad Adenauer, at that time Zonal Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, today Federal Chancellor.

At first Schmeisser approached Dr Reifferscheidt, in summer 1948. This was not difficult, since Reifferscheidt had at that time the programme of detaching the left bank of the Rhine from Germany and attaching it economically to France...

(The "Spiegel" report then gives further details of Reifferscheidt's separatist plans, and the information which he gave to Schmeisser for the French Intelligence Service.)

Reifferscheidt then introduced Schmeisser to Embassy Counsellor Blankenhorn, General Secretary of the Christian Democratic Union, in the CDU Zonal Headquarters in Robert Haeuser Strasse, Cologne. Schmeisser states: "Reifferscheidt had already indicated to me that both Blankenhorn and Dr Adenauer could be won for a very close contact with France.

"Acting in my official capacity as emissary of the French Intelligence Service, I had at first a long talk with Blankenhorn about political and intelligence matters." Schmeisser recalls that Blankenhorn emphasised that he must leave to Dr Adenauer the decision on the concrete French proposals for cooperation. Schmeisser continues: "Following this we talked with Dr Adenauer, and after half an hour Dr Adenauer sent Blankenhorn out of the room. Then I negotiated for a full two hours with Dr Adenauer.

"After these negotiations, Dr Adenauer ordered Blankenhorn to place

regularly at my disposal all files and sources of the CDU, insofar as they were of interest to me. To avoid any unnecessary difficulties it was decided that I should not meet directly with Dr Adenauer in future, but should handle everything with Blankenhorn. Blankenhorn frequently assured me later that everything which he did was being done on Dr Adenauer's direct orders, and with his approval.

"After this I met regularly, generally once a week, with Blankenhorn, sometimes late in the evening in his private residence in Cologne, situated in CDU headquarters in the Robert Haeuser Strasse, and sometimes in his private office in the same building. Later, after the establishment of the Parliamentary Council, we met in what is today the Federal Parliament, or in a restaurant in Godesberg. He also visited me in my apartment in Boppard.

"At each meeting Blankenhorn reported to me on all questions which I had raised, and which were of interest for the French Intelligence Service. He also handed to me a list of important political personalities who came into question for close cooperation with France.

"His reports dealt with the following fields:

Adenauer's most internal political intentions, insofar as they were of interest to the French Intelligence Service at that time.

Adenauer's foreign policy plans, aiming at a close and lasting link with France. (In this connection Blankenhorn begged me to be cautious on the telephone, since he feared that our conversations might come to the attention of the British Intelligence Service.)

Details of interest to the French service on West German politicians such as Dr Adolf Suesterhenn, Dr Anton Pfeiffer, Dr Josef Mueller, Dr Kurt Schumacher and many others.

Anti-Communist information.

"All of this was top-secret information, that was never published and was only available to the closest circle round Dr Adenauer."

Schmeisser states that Blankenhorn also informed him about the "Speidel Plan" for the defence of Germany east of the Rhine. "In this case Blankenhorn requested that my secretary, who was present at all meetings to take a shorthand note, should not take a note. We should rather keep the details of the plan in our memory.

"In addition Blankenhorn conveyed to me, mostly by post, great stacks of material every week on the work of the Parliamentary Council. In addition Blankenhorn assured me repeatedly that both he and Dr Adenauer believed that Germany was bound to give France services in advance."

Schmeisser continued: "Blankenhorn received regularly from me money, food and luxuries (from French stores). The monetary payments—a fixed payment of 150 marks monthly and sometimes more on application—were officially explained by stating that the acquisition of anti-Communist material, and the maintenance of a special office for this purpose demanded sums of money which could not be borne by the party."

(The "Spiegel" report then quotes Schmeisser as stating that Blankenhorn accepted, in his and Adenauer's name, an offer made by the French Intelligence Service to transport them and their families to Spain "in the event of a Russian invasion of West Germany".)

And there is something else which Konrad Schmeisser cannot forget. "In 1949 the elections to the first Federal Parliament were approaching, and Blankenhorn suddenly started talking about the bad financial situation of the CDU. He said that the CDU needed round about one million marks for its finances, and that to date only about 200,000 marks had been promised by a third party. He asked me whether it would not be possible for the French side to provide, through various foreign trade agencies, the money needed to make up the million. He added that it was certainly in the French interest that Dr Adenauer and his friends should have a chance in the elections and the subsequent formation of the government.

"I transmitted this request by the CDU to Paris, and received in reply an agreement in principle, which I conveyed to Blankenhorn."

ADENAUER'S PAST

Here is a potted biography of Konrad Adenauer, Christian Democratic Chancellor of the West German Federal Republic.

Born 1876. Professional politician all his adult life, rising steadily to become Lord Mayor of Cologne in 1917.

In 1918, when the Kaiser fled, Adenauer became violently pro-French, and attached himself to the French-financed Rhineland Separatist movement. Speaking at a separatist meeting in Cologne on February 1st 1919 he stated: "Either we attach ourselves directly to France, or we join France as a buffer state, or we become a West German Republic. There is no other way."

Adenauer quickly abandoned the separatist movement when it became clear that the central authorities in Berlin—that is to say the Kaiser's old generals—had regained control.

Throughout the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic he remained in office as Lord Mayor of Cologne, and steadily climbed the ladder in public life, finally becoming chairman of the Prussian State Council. In this position he was charged with having received a bribe of one million marks from the German artificial silk trust for pushing through an import tax revision, and he never satisfactorily countered the allegation.

In 1929, as Lord Mayor of Cologne, he sent Mussolini a greetings telegram stating: "Your name will be entered in golden letters in the book of history."

After Hitler came to power, Adenauer, who had backed other candidates for the post of dictator, had to go into retirement, but he received his full pension throughout the nazi period, and according to his own account he spent the twelve years of nazi rule "pottering about in my garden growing roses".

Immediately after the war Adenauer, as a "victim of nazism" was appointed Lord Mayor of Cologne again by the British military authorities. A few weeks later he was sacked for incompetence.

In September 1949 he became first Chancellor of the German Federal Republic. He was elected to this post by a majority of one vote — his own.

War Criminals Repatriated

German war criminals who have been serving sentences in the Soviet Union are now being repatriated, it was officially announced in Moscow. The Soviet announcement said that as a result of requests made by the Governments of both East and West Germany, it had been decided to amnesty 8877 war criminals serving sentence, and to repatriate them. A further 749 German citizens, guilty of particularly horrible war crimes, would be handed over to the East or West German authorities, according to their former place of residence. It had not been possible to amnesty these persons, because of the enormity of their crimes, the Moscow announcement said.

SPORT IN EAST GERMANY

By Armour Milne, noted British sports writer

One of the most interesting developments in sport this year was the decision of the International Olympic Committee in Paris to recognise the Olympic Committee of German Democratic Republic and their request that the German Democratic Republic and West Germany together should send an all-German team to the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia, at the end of 1956.

Since then the East and West German Olympic Committees have met and decided to support the recommendation of the International Olympic Committee. That was in August and since then the representatives of the various sports organisations have begun to come together to discuss their various organisational problems.

This is one healthy development in the direction of German unity, but it is just as well to get it in correct perspective. This is not an overnight development. It is something that the people responsible for the development of sport in East Germany have been working for ever since sport began to get on its feet again there. And it is something which has been supported by many progressive people in sport in West Germany.

In the light of this latest advance, and of the growing number of good performances by East German athletes, I have been visiting the German Democratic Republic with the particular aim of learning something about the sports movement here. The sum total of what I have seen has amazed me. I have visited many countries in the course of more than 30 years of reporting, but none has had greater sports facilities, existing and planned, than the German Democratic Republic.

There are, for instance, 105 stadiums in the Republic, 623 playing fields, many of them with running tracks; over seven thousand other playing fields for football and other ball games, more than two thousand fields for basketball and volleyball, 17 swimming stadiums, 397 outdoor swimming pools, 30 indoor pools, 340 boat-houses, 21 huge sports halls for competitions and training, over two thousand gymnasiums, eleven cycling tracks. These are mere random selections. The examples could be trebled. But these should suffice to give a picture of the background to sport in East Germany.

But figures alone are insufficient. It is when the figures take actual shape that the picture begins to live. I visited two of the eleven cycling tracks. I attended the opening of a new one in Berlin and a training session in another in Leipzig. Both had been built not only for cyclists but in a large measure by the cyclists themselves. This fact clearly showed the enthusiasm that exists on a mass scale among the workers themselves.

And it isn't only in the cities and the towns. The Youth Law of 1950 laid down that even every village must have a playing field and that State and local budgets must provide the financial means. And behind the law are the people themselves. Take the people of the village of Altstrelitz in New Brandenburg. Here they tackled the needs of the young people in a thoroughly businesslike way and set to to build a stadium of their own, complete with running track, grandstand, dressing rooms and a clubhouse. By next summer, everything will be complete.

So far as the people of East Germany are concerned that village stadium is every bit as important as the giant sports constructions that have been springing up all over the Republic, because it expresses the healthy desire to crystallise their new way of life in practical form.

Biggest of the sports constructions is the new German Academy of Physical Education and Sport, now under construction in Leipzig, together with a giant Sports Forum. Work began on this in 1952 and will not be completed until 1960. The Academy has been in existence since 1950, when there were 90 students of physical education and 13 teachers. Today there are 1,400 students and 200 teachers, and even now only a few of the new buildings are in use or have got anywhere near completion. When completed, I fancy that this will be the biggest academy of its kind in the world, certainly bigger and more beautiful than anything I have seen in my travels. It stretches down one side of the wide, tree-lined Stalin Allee. On the other side the Sports Forum is being built. This, when ready, will be capable of housing the greatest sporting events in the world, including the Olympic Games. The stadium, which will be ready next year, will hold 100,000 spectators. The swimming stadium is already being used. It has seating for 10,000. Surrounding the main stadium will be a whole series of minor sports grounds, halls and gymnasiums,

There is also the magnificent German Sports School, built on the old Strausberg racecourse outside Berlin, where P. T. and sports teachers are trained in shorter courses than at Leipzig, and the Central Sports School of the trade unions, where sports leaders are trained in three months' courses for work on a voluntary basis in districts and subdistricts, where they themselves help train people for voluntary work in sport in the factories and villages.

The result of all this effort and the great enthusiasm of the people — there are now 1,300,000 people taking an active part in the democratic sports movement — can already be seen in the speedily rising sports standard in the German Democratic Republic in a wide range of sports.

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DEMOCRATIC GERMANY'S 6TH BIRTHDAY

"Only Legitimate German State" – Grotewohl

The German Democratic Republic is the only legitimate German state today, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated in a programmatic speech delivered in Berlin on the occasion of the sixth birthday of the German Democratic Republic on October 7th.

The sixth anniversary of the formation of the German Democratic Republic was celebrated throughout East Germany as a festive holiday, with great rallies at which an accounting was given of the work of construction already accomplished, and pledges of new production successes were made.

The birthday was marked by the presence in Berlin of important foreign guests, including M. A. Suslov from the Soviet Union, Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz from Poland, and many others.

Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, in his speech delivered on the eve of Republic Day, stated:

"The German Democratic Republic is the only legitimate state in Germany, ensuring peace, which is the vital interest of the German nation. The German Democratic Republic is the foundation stone for a peaceful and democratic Germany, since here the forces of war — the monopolists, the junkers and the militarists — have already been deprived of their power.

"That is why our workers' and peasants' state is the only real expression of genuine democracy, and not that West German sham democracy in which monopolists can buy parliamentary seats, and in which foreign spy centres can buy the services of Chancellors."

Sketching the economic progress made in the past six years by the German Democratic Republic, Prime Minister Grotewohl showed that pig iron production had risen from 250,000 tons in 1949 to over 1,500,000 tons this year. Three great new shipyards had been built on the Baltic Coast, in places where there was previously no shipbuilding.

In the same period average monthy earnings in Socialist industry had risen from 261 marks to 370 marks, and prices had fallen steadily.

BONN COMMISSION WHITE-WASHES NAZI GENERAL

The West German Parliament recently established a special Personnel Board to screen high-ranking officers for the new West German Wehrmacht. Western propagandists praised the Personnel Board as a guarantee that "only the best type of democratic officer" would be allowed in high command posts.

On October 4th the Personnel Board issued its first statement, announcing that Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger had been found "completely acceptable" for the new Wehrmacht. Heusinger is tipped to take the post of Chief of Staff. The Personnel Board stated: "There can be no doubt that General Heusinger has the personal qualities needed for a high post of command."

Here are some historical details about Heusinger's "high qualities":

Heusinger was Chief of Operations on Hitler's General Staff. He played a leading role in the nazi campaign against France, and in his book "Befehl im Widerstreit", published in West Germany two years ago, he blamed Hitler for not completely wiping out the British army at Dunkirk.

Giving evidence at the Nuremberg Trial of main criminals in 1946 he stated that he had been fully informed about the nazi aim of slaughtering Jews and Slavs, but claimed he had opposed this programme on tactical grounds:

"I always regarded these cruel methods as a military foolishness, since they unnecessarily hampered the fight of our troops against the enemy."

One of his colleagues, General Horst Freiherr von Buttlar-Brandenfels, appearing as a witness at the same trial on June 1st 1946, commented on Heusinger's evidence in these words:

"I worked very closely together with General Heusinger, and very often spoke with him on the subject of war against the bandits (partisans, ed.). He never spoke to me in such terms about the subject, and I can find no explanation for this statement of his, since it is in complete contradiction to the basic views of the military leadership . . ."

Socialist-Communist Cooperation Ousts Nazi Mayor

Social Democratic and Communist members of the city council of Mannheim joined forces on September 27th to prevent a former SS official from becoming Lord Mayor of the city.

The nazi, Hans Reschke, now a member of the Christian Democratic Union, managed to conceal details of his past history, and was elected Lord Mayor on September 11th. When his career as an active nazi became known, the Social Democratic and Communist council members, by a joint effort, forced a cancellation of the election.

Catholic Peace Supporter Acquitted

A court in Dusseldorf, West Germany, acquitted on September 27th a well-known Catholic writer, Frau Christa Thomas, who had been brought before the court charged with being "leader of an anti-constitutional organisation".

Frau Thomas has been active in West Germany in the organisation of opposition to remilitarisation. Ordering the acquittal, the court president declared that it had not been shown by the prosecution that it was unconstitutional to struggle against remilitarisation.

NEW LIFE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

By Paula Wiking

(Reprinted from "National Herald", Lucknow, India)

Deep in the south of the German Democratic Republic there is a small town and spa called Klosterlausnitz. On the top of a hill overlooking the town there is a settlement of some score of houses, workshops, barns, with intervening gardens and farmland, which make up the Jugendheim Neues Leben — the New Life Youth Home.

As we drove in, a group of about a dozen young people in dungarees, carrying spades and other farm implements, and singing at the tops of their voices, turned off the road to one of the houses, where they broke up with a deal of laughter and lively chattering to stack their tools and scrape their boots before going in. From the open windows of another house nearby came snatches of song and the voices of young girls.

Such was the cheerful atmosphere of a corrective home for youthful offenders of both sexes, whose crimes included everything from burglary with violence to child prostitution and nude dancing.

We were met by the head, Herr Gerhard Aulich, who is called the director, but seemed much more like the headmaster of a secondary school. Aged 36, married and with three children of his own, he is, in fact, a teacher by profession. He started teaching in a primary school in the winter of 1945—1946, later became head of a village school, then of an upper primary school, and finally, in 1952, took over his present directorship.

This use of teachers, rather than police or prison authorities, is typical of the East German approach to the whole question of juvenile delinquency — not punishment, but education coupled with understanding and love.

"Our biggest difficulty here", Herr Aulich told me, "is to get the appropriate staff. The work is very exacting, as the staff must always be on tap — the young people should be allowed to feel that they can approach us whenever they need us, just as they would their own parents. Anyone doing this just as a job, without a loving understanding, would break down under the burden of the demands made on him."

We were walking down the road together to inspect the machineshop, and as he said this, a group of five young lads emerged from it and came towards us.

"Finished for the day?" Herr Aulich asked, ruffling up the hair of the youngest boy, a rosy, healthy-looking youngster of not more than fourteen. The boy gave the pleased, rather sheepish kind of grin that showed he was not unaccustomed to such spontaneous gestures of affection. They all burst into speech, explaining some difficulty they had had with one of the machines.

Not being an engineer, the details escaped me, but there was no mistaking the general air of interest in their work, of well-being and contentment, which underlined what the head had said to me only a moment before. There was no sign of anything even remotely recalling delinquency.

There were no guards, no walls, no fences.

"What's to prevent them running away?" I asked as we continued on our round.

"Nothing", said Herr Aulich, "except their own desire to stay. When they have tried to get away, it's usually been as soon as they arrived. But normally they decide to stick it for a few days from sheer curiosity, just to see what it's like. But once you catch their interest, that's already half the battle."

I asked what were the crimes of the five boys we had just passed. Herr Aulich's brow creased in thought for a moment; then he said:

"To tell you the truth, I'm not quite sure — probably breaking in somewhere and stealing, but I should have to look up the records to tell you exactly. You see, we don't go on talking about their past misdeeds — we just forget all about it, because we don't want to perpetuate any feeling that they are outcasts of society. On the contrary, they are members of our community, learning to be good and valuable citizens of the larger community outside.

"Of course, if anyone feels the need to talk to me about his past, if he has difficulties of adjustment that he wants to consult me about, he knows he can always do so. We explain to them that they are here, not as a punishment, but to learn a trade or profession that will help them play their part in the world without having to resort to crime. Most of their misbehaviour, after all, is due to a bad environment, the post-war effects of broken homes and insecurity, the social effects of our divided country. Once our young people have been given the opportunity to develop their abilities and potentialities, very few of them return to a life of crime."

Among the trades taught at the home are engineering and electrical work, carpentering and woodwork, gardening, forestry, farming, domestic science, sewing and tailoring, building und painting. Ordinary schooling is given side by side with these technical skills.

There are twelve hours of study weekly, six for general knowledge and six for practical training. This suffices to give a grounding and an opportunity for each inmate to discover his or her natural bent. The head, in consultation with his teaching staff and the young people themselves, then recommends them for further study at the appropriate school, factory training school, technical college or university. There are no limits, apart from the pupil's own gifts, to the kind or extent of education for which he or she may be recommended.

Our tour of inspection took us round the farm, which consists of nine hectares of land, two oxen, six cows and a calf, poultry, a litter of young pigs and six fullgrown pigs. Later, we saw the large central kitchen, with an enormous electric fan in the ceiling, where the girls would transform some of the pig into sausages, and where they made their own jams and other preserves for the larder.

There were workshops for wood and metal work, laboratories for chemistry and physics, and pleasant schoolrooms for mathematics, history, German language and literature, all designed for maximum classes of 16 to 20 pupils.

A huge old garage had been converted into a theatre, cinema, dance hall and club-room, and a former Nazi munitions dump was being cleared for a gymnasium and playing field. The Home already has a football team that plays matches against other institutions.

We went to the dormitories to see how they live and to talk to as many of them as possible. Dusk had now fallen, and the dinner hour was over, so we found them at their leisure pursuits.

The boys and girls live in small separate houses, most of them with flowers growing round their walls, of the ordinary twostorey dwelling house type. There was nothing even remotely resembling a barrack. The head and his staff of four teachers, as well as the office staff, also live with their wives and families in such small private houses, grouped irregularly like a small village.

We went first to a boys' house for the upper age limit of 17—18 year-olds. The bedrooms for two, occasionally three, inmates, were rather small and cramped; there was usually just room for the beds, two wardrobes and chests of drawers, and a couple of chairs, sometimes also a table.

On the ground floor was a spacious lounge, a club and games room with a wireless set, and a corner of books. Most of the boys were in the club-room, where the wireless was playing light popular music, and a table tennis game was in progress.

In the lounge a few boys were reading or doing lessons, while others seemed to be just talking and laughing. We even surprised a few austere characters sitting alone in their bedrooms over a book. The atmosphere was easy and unrestrained, and we were greeted with spontaneous smiles, but not much interest. The boys all seemed busy and engrossed in their own affairs. Some of the groups that seemed to be talking idly were, it turned out, discussing plans for their part in the harvest festival.

At the girls' house there was much more curiosity about the visitors, and a great deal of giggling. We found no hermits alone in their rooms here. Most of the girls wore their working clothes consisting of slacks and a loose blouse, usually dark blue, but many of them with brightly coloured neck-cloths.

When we came down to their lounge again after looking at the bedrooms, one of them had got out a lute, and with two of her companions began to sing some German folk and youth songs for us. She was about 17, not particularly pretty, perhaps, but so bubbling over with gaiety and vitality, that she possessed a charm far beyond her looks.

What crime had she committed, I asked after leaving the house. Prostitution in West Berlin, was the reply. She had been at the home for just over a year and was due to leave soon.

She was a fine girl, the head said, intelligent and with many talents. As she had special abilities in drawing, the head had arranged for her to enter a technical college for draughtsmanship in a neighbouring town. Another girl in a similar position had been found a job at a farm co-operative less then ten miles from the home.

There are about a score of such youth homes in the German Democratic Republic, of varying sizes. The New Life Home, with a capacity of 150, is among the larger ones. The aim is to have them neither too large nor too small; at this size it was possible for the head to know each inmate personally.

The idea of having boys and girls together in the same home is believed to be better in a number of ways than segregating the sexes. Apart from maintaining the family atmosphere, it does away, or at any rate greatly reduces the difficulties of readjustment when the young people leave the home to take up their own lives outside. The girls and boys tend to exercise a natural restraint on one another's behaviour, and there is less rowdyism than in segregated homes.

Where the sense of community is strong, a minimum of conscious discipline is required. Newcomers who try to cut up rough are usually quelled by little more than the weight of public opinion.

Some of the teaching staff told me about three typical "teddy-boys" who, as soon as they arrived, wanted to drink and fight all the time. They were told by the others to take their hands out of their pockets, not to slouch, to stop letting their hair grow long, to work harder. When they complained of being too tired to work, their companions promptly put them to bed. With every expression of commiseration, they declared the poor boys must not be allowed to over-strain themselves, forcibly washed and fed them, forbade them to lift a finger, or even to read or listen to the wireless or play any games. After a day or two of this treatment, the wretches were so utterly exhausted through sheer boredom that they cried aloud to be given work.

The most serious and rarely inflicted punishment is ostracism. No-one is allowed to talk to the culprit, he is excluded from all leisure activities- loses his leave to visit and receive visits from his family, has his pay docked. Usually punishments are suggested by the "brigade" — the elected youth leaders of the home and then discussed by the teaching staff. The final decision, however, rests with the head.

The reason for this was unexpected; the young people are themselves often far too severe.

The schools base their work on that of Makarenko, the Russian educator, famous even in the West for his book, and the film made of it — "The Road to Life". The young people are as interested in this book as the teaching staff. It is among their most popular reading; they find it "thrilling to read all about themselves".

ARCHIVES RETURNED

Important German historical and political archives, secured by the Soviet Army in 1945 when it entered Germany, have now been returned to the German Democratic Republic.

The archives, which are of the greatest interest to historians, include volumes going back to the 14th century. One of the most important sections of the collection contains important German Foreign Ministry documents from 1870 until 1945.

Important archives seized by the British and American forces in 1945 are still held in London and Washington.

It was announced in Berlin that West German historians and scientists would have full access to the archives, totalling no less than 140,000 volumes, as soon as the necessary state agreement on this subject was concluded between the Bonn and Berlin Governments.

National Prize for Renn

Ludwig Renn, famed German anti-fascist author, was decorated with the National Prize of the German Democratic Republic on the Republic's sixth birthday on October 7th. Renn is best known in English-speaking countries for his anti-militarist book "War" which appeared in the twenties.

Other National Prizes for art and literture were awarded to Leonhard Frank, West German author; Kurt and Jeanette Stern, authors of the Film "Stronger than the Night" which is soon to be shown in Britain; and Slatan Dudow, director of the same film.

National Prizes for science and technology were awarded to Professor Gustav Hertz for his work on atom physics, Professor Ernst Bloch for his philosophical studies, and many others.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Last Friday evening I wandered for several hours through central Berlin, watching how the Berliners were celebrating the sixth birthday of the German Democratic Republic.

Like all good birthdays, this one was being celebrated with plenty of eating, drinking and music. During the afternoon, the serious part of the birthday festivities had been disposed of with a monster rally on the Marx-Engels-Platz, where Kaiser Wilhelm used to have his palace, and now the whole huge square and the mile-long Unter den Linden were filled with hundreds of thousands of Berliners from both east and west, simply having a good time.

Street Dancing

The Berliners have never been good at dancing in the streets; they prefer to watch a good show. And there were good shows in plenty: the Marx-Engels Platz alone had something of the character of an enormous three-ring circus. In one part of the square firemen were hard at work quelling the flames in a house specially constructed for the purpose, while high over their heads an acrobat, bathed in searchlights, was performing on a high wire stretched up to the dome of the Berlin Cathedral. At the northern end of the square thousands of Berliners had surrounded an enormous open-air stage waiting for the performance, due to start any moment, of the song and dance ensemble of the Soviet Army in Germany.

Just across the Spree River, in front of the ruins of the former Palace of the Hohenzollern Crown Prince, there was a children's section, where hundreds of sticky-handed children clutching balloons were watching a Punch and Judy show and running egg-and-spoon races.

Bald Crooner

Just across the road, teen-agers and adults were clustered under the chestnut trees watching a variety show. While I was there there were gasps of disappointment from several girls in my vicinity as a well-known radio singer appeared to intone the lyrics of a rather sloppy tango. Previously they had only heard him on the radio: now he appeared in person, and it turned out that he was almost entirely bald.

Next to the recently re-opened State Opera was one of the star attractions of the evening—an open air stage where all the Berlin theatres were combining to put on a show. This was a real pot-pourri: top-rank singers from the State Opera roared out arias; ballet dancers twirled and leaped; cabaret stars presented a brilliant political skit; and one theatre presented an uproarious scene from a local Berlin classic.

And so it went on, down nearly the whole length of the Unter den Linden. And I should not forget to mention that Berliners were in fact dancing rather shyly in the streets at two or three places, where dance bands were playing.

Between all the open-air stages were the kiosks selling food and drink—little chickens roasting on the spit, hot black puddings, chocolates and lollypops, big glasses of beer, and of course the inevitable "Bockwurst", fat pink hot sausages which the Berliners consume in such enormous quantities at every appropriate and many inappropriate moments.

Grey Faces?

As I watched the cheery crowds surging up and down the broad avenue, which had been closed to traffic for the birthday celebrations, I could not help thinking of the nonsense which still creeps into big-business papers in western countries about "grey-faced shabby people" which are apparently all some western correspondents can see when they visit East Berlin.

I had been reminded of these silly reports again recently when I ploughed my way through the new book "Back into Power" by Alistair Horne (Max Parrish, London, 18/6). Mr. Horne was "Daily Telegraph" correspondent in West Germany from 1952 to 1954, and his book is mainly a piece of special pleading in support of Chancellor Adenauer, whom he presents as the shining white knight of democracy. (See the first three pages of this issue for more details on this white knight.)

But Mr. Horne also deals with East Germany, a subject about which he is quite startlingly misinformed, and he dishes up once again all the weary old phrases: on page 29, for instance, people in East Berlin are "shabby in the extreme, walking about with no apparent aim or enthusiasm, hungry yellow faces with expressionless features . . . Their faces showed no emotion of either depression or elation—just machine-like fixity."

As I said, I could not help thinking of Mr. Horne's book as I wandered up and down the Unter den Linden last Friday, watching the crowds tucking into their hot sausages, clapping the acts on the open-air stages, and trying to get their children away from the Punch and Judy show and the scooter races so that they would be in bed before it got too late.

Theatres Too

I have not mentioned half the shows that were on in the open air in that crowded mile of entertainment, and of course there were plenty of other things to do for people who did not feel like milling about in the crowd. Theatres, as always, were playing to capacity, and I noticed a long queue in front of the State Opera, waiting hopefully to see if they could not get a last-minute ticket to Beethoven's "Fidelio". The Metropol Theatre was playing the "Gipsy Baron", and the Schiffbauerdamm Theatre was presenting yet another performance of "Mother Courage", Bertolt Brecht's famous anti-war play, which has been on the programme for over six years now, and looks as if it will go on for ever.

Good Party

Altogether it was a most successful birthday. The only people who didn't enjoy it were those western politicians and propagandists who are always forecasting the imminent collapse of the German Democratic Republic and other Socialist countries. Of course they have been confidently forecasting the collapse of the Soviet Union for 38 years now.

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